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OFFICE OF THE PROVOST/VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

March 7, 2007

James L. Applegate, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 320
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your review and response to our Regional Stewardship infrastructure plan. Let me reply to the questions you asked in the order that you presented them.

- What activities will be undertaken to incorporate regional stewardship into unit goals and performance measures? What is the timeline for these activities?
- Regional stewardship will be part of the strategic plan that we currently are developing. Subsequent to the approval of this new plan, we will be giving the units goals and performance measures that they need to reach in 2008.
- Ongoing professional development activities will be offered to faculty and students through lectures, workshops, and departmental and faculty meetings. What is the focus of this work? Will it clearly differentiate service and volunteer programs from those targeting service learning and engaged research?
 - On January 8, 2007, we had a presentation on stewardship as part of our professional development program and to formalize our commitment to making it a basic part of KSU operations. This spring semester Dr. Anne Butler will be putting together a schedule of our timeline and activities as part of her initial responsibilities as our regional stewardship director. We will develop a program to record and differentiate the various types of engagement.
- The administration will ensure that all systems of evaluation contain engagement as a criterion for performance evaluations. What is the expected timeline?
 - We will be developing targets and levels of expectations during the fall semester in order to fully integrate the engagement component in our activities beginning January 1, 2008.
- The proposal states that the administration has and continues to urge the Faculty Senate
 to adopt a policy that will further incorporate community service in course curricula. Is
 there a date by which you expect to effect these changes?

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Service learning is already a component of our basic freshman course UNV 101. We will be working with the Faculty Senate during the spring semester and moving forward to have discussions in the fall semester about incorporating service learning and student engagement in more courses and to adopt the policy. After the new strategic plan is developed to incorporate regional stewardship as part of our formal activities, we will be giving targets to the various colleges to achieve during 2008.

 The administration envisions that each student will be required to submit a paper on their engagement activities as a graduation requirement. What is the time frame for instituting this requirement?

We would like to replace the submission of the paper with the option to increase participation in NSSE as a means of determining the level of participation of students in engagement activities.

 What is the university's role in the regional advisory committee? Will campus leaders serve on the committee? Will faculty or administrators serve on subcommittees? Will university provide staff support for the committee?

It is expected that the university will have a strong presence on the committee but not have undue influence over its operation. There will be representatives from the university campus leadership as well as faculty members and administrators on subcommittees. As part of the infrastructure funds, support will be provided for the committee.

If we can provide any further information or clarification, please contact Dr. Anne Butler or me.

Sincerely,

James P. Chapman, Ph.D.

Interim Provost and

Vice President for Academic Affairs